

Application No.: 10/645,135
Amendment dated: August 15, 2006
Reply to Office Action of: June 16, 2006

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Examiner had identified 4 species of the claimed invention:

Group I, drawn to Figure 1B;

Group II, drawn to Figure 3A;

Group III, drawn to Figure 4; and

Group IV, drawn to Figure 5.

Applicant provisionally elects Group III, drawn to Figure 4 with traverse. Claims 4 and 5 are readable thereon.

Applicant's invention is a connector means to prevent the separation of the two parts of a container after they are separated. The elected species of the connector means comprises a short section of material that is inserted into an elongated container. Another species of the connector means comprises of a short section of flexible material with multiple longitudinal channels along its perimeter. In yet another embodiment, the connector means comprises a short cylindrical section of flexible material with multiple elongated openings around its circumference wherein the connector means is placed around an opening means of an elongated container to retain the section of the container that will be broken off. The various embodiments are simply species of the same invention, which is the placement of a short section of material in an elongated container at an opening means to prevent the separation of the sections of the elongated container after the opening means is used to separate the elongated container in sections.

Applicant respectfully requests that the restriction requirement be reconsidered and withdrawn and a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

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Respectfully submitted,



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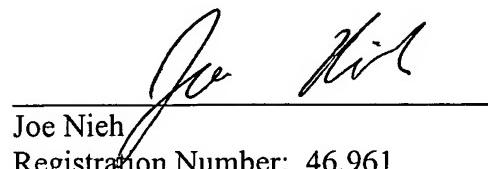
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